

PARENT GUIDE

return to *school*

Guidebook to Fall 2020 School Reopening



**THUNDER BAY CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Over the past several months, we have experienced unprecedented changes in our education system. Beginning with the closure of schools by provincial ministerial order on March 13, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and through to the end of our school year, we have had to reconsider many of the ways in which we work, learn and interact with one another.

We know the value that schools hold in our communities. They are places of learning where students grow intellectually and socially through their interactions with fellow students and staff. This environment, and these relationships, are important to the ongoing development of our students and to their overall well-being. We want our students and staff back in our schools and in a manner that maximizes the safety and well-being of staff, students, and families.

The school board was directed by the province to prepare for three different scenarios for September. School Reopening Plans will be based on the framework and guidelines provided by the [Ministry of Education's Guide to Reopening Schools](#) for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Boards were asked to prepare three possible scenarios for reopening schools:

1. **Conventional** - Normal school day routine with enhanced health and safety protocols.
2. **Adaptive** - Modified school day routine based on smaller class sizes, cohorting and alternative day or week delivery.
(**Note:** This is not currently an option for TBCDSB however, we may need to switch to this model if directed by the Ministry of Education).
3. **Learn at Home** - Learning at home (remote learning) with opportunities for students to engage with their teachers in both synchronous and asynchronous learning. Synchronous learning occurs live and in real time (e.g. live teacher lesson with students participating virtually), whereas asynchronous learning is conducted remotely but without real-time interaction (e.g. teacher-recorded lesson uploaded to Google Classroom).

While we have been directed to open in a conventional model, boards have to be prepared to transition to either an adapted model or remote learning model as directed by the Ministry based on advice from the Chief Medical Officer of Health or the local Medical Officer of Health. Details of all three plans can be found on the [TBCDSB website](#).

We recognize that parents/guardians need to have predictability and routine in their family life so that they can arrange child care, home life and work commitments while knowing their child is receiving academic instruction in a safe environment. Given the uncertainty that we face in the coming months, flexibility, patience, and understanding will be needed as we develop solutions to the various challenges with a return to school.

The operations outlined in this letter are based on the most recent advice from the [Ministry of Education](#), local and provincial Public Health Officials and [School Mental Health Ontario](#). It is



important to note that our plans will evolve as required, recognizing that directives from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health may change.

Guiding Principles for our Return to School

- Keep students and staff safe and healthy.
- Provide opportunities for the continuity of learning: through either conventional, adapted or remote learning.
- Focus on student and staff well-being and mental health.
- Address issues of equity and access for our students and families.
- Keep stakeholders informed through regular communication.

Our parent community will have many unique family situations and work commitments that they need to resolve. This plan will not be able to meet every individual situation. We will work to find creative solutions designed to help as many families as possible so that they can manage their competing demands of work, school and family needs.

Communication

School principals and the Board's Communication Department will continue to communicate regularly with students and their parents/guardians over the next several weeks. Information and updates will be shared with families, students and staff through a variety of means including, but not limited to, the [TBCDSB website](#) email, phone calls, synrevoice and social media, as required. Our school secretaries will be back in schools on August 24th and will be available to pass on any messages to staff.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Staff Well-Being

Prior to school starting, staff will receive professional development opportunities and support. Opportunities are being developed to provide information and resources to staff. There will be a wide variety of modalities available and staff have been consulted around topics of need/interest.

Student Well-Being

Along with the teaching resources that will be made available, we want to ensure that students are well supported in terms of their wellbeing during this difficult time. Please make sure you talk openly with your parents/caregivers about any issues you might be having, or if you are feeling anxious.

Detailed Mental Health support, as well as online referral form and service description, information can be found on our [TBCDSB website](#).



Prior to school starting, School Mental Health Ontario will provide boards with a professional learning toolkit to support the mental health of all students that can be tailored at the Board and school level for different audiences. The Board will implement a tiered approach for mental health that will capture all students and target intensive help to those most affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Parent Well-Being

Parent webinars and learning/support opportunities are being developed to provide information, resources and strategies for parents. There will be a wide variety of modalities available and parents are being consulted around topics of need/interest.

Racism, Discrimination and Bullying

We all have a responsibility to prevent discrimination against all students and families. Staff will actively monitor any derogatory comments based on race at all times. Racism and bullying related to COVID-19 myths and misinformation will not be tolerated and will be specifically addressed early in the fall.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board is committed to supporting our students who require special education and mental health support in order to successfully engage in learning. School principals will work alongside classroom teaching staff, other school and board support staff as well as families to determine the support required to develop safe learning environments for students. For this work to continue to be successful during these changing times, a great deal of collaboration and flexibility will be required to enable a student's support network to adjust to the changing needs of the student and the potential changes in learning environments as we work through the year to come with COVID-19 in our community.

Transition Planning

- Classroom staff will work collaboratively with students, parents, school support staff, their administration, board resource teams and agency partners when necessary, to consider the supports and strategies to be used in order to best support the individual's needs of students in their classrooms. Individual start dates may differ from the staggered start schedule provided based on individual needs and in consultation with school and Board staff.

Individual Education Plans

- Classroom teachers will be reviewing and adapting student Individual Education Plans (IEPs), Behaviour Safety Plans and Student Support Plans that consider in-person classroom accommodations and modifications as well as those appropriate for at home learning. This will enable teachers to be prepared to have plans in place to support the changing learning environments of our students.

Identification, Placement and Review Committee Meetings

- Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) meetings will be scheduled and held remotely. School administration will discuss the platform parents would like to use to hold IPRC meetings with a choice of an online virtual phone meeting or telephone meeting.

Programming

- All Special Education programs, including Empower Reading, Success by Seven, Transitions and Life Skills, will run with enhanced protocols in place.

Community Supports

- Paraprofessionals (Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Nurses) will have visitor access to the school to support students. Virtual sessions may be arranged, if learning from home and if appropriate for the service required.

Health & Safety Measures

- Schedule and cleaning regime will be established for calming rooms.
- Use of shared items or equipment will be discouraged. Equipment that must be shared should be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use, and users should perform hand hygiene before and after each use.
- Additional PPE for staff and students, based on consideration of public health, will be provided.
- Revised protocols for personal hygiene, including toileting, will be established.

REOPENING MODELS

Conventional

The Ministry of Education has directed all elementary schools (K to 8) in Ontario to reopen with a conventional in-person delivery model of teaching and instruction, with enhanced health and safety protocols in place. In this model students attend school full time, five days per week. Students remain with only their class during the day, including during recess and lunch. This class is considered their “cohort.” Cohorted classes will stay together with one teacher in their classroom where possible and specialized teachers would go into each classroom to provide programming for students. The full range of elementary curriculum, including the new Grades 1-8 Mathematics curriculum will be provided.

Learn At Home

On August 13, 2020 [Policy/Program Memorandum No. 164](#): Requirements for Remote Learning was distributed to School Boards. Included in this PPM are the minimum amount of time per day that students, depending on their grade level, must be provided with synchronous learning (online learning that happens in real time) as part of their scheduled or timetabled learning.

Division	Grade Level of Students	Daily Minimum Synchronous Learning Time Requirement
Elementary	Kindergarten	180 minutes
	Grades 1-3	225 minutes
	Grades 4-8	225 minutes
Secondary	Grade 9-12	The higher of 60 minutes for each 75-minute class period or 225 minutes per day for a full course schedule

Learn at Home learning will be delivered via [Google Classroom](#) or D2L and [Google Meet](#). All teachers providing lessons will create a subject specific Classroom. Special Education, Specialist, French teachers and Early Childhood Educators (for kindergarten) will also have access to the Google Classroom for each class they support/teach. All curriculum areas will be taught, evaluated and reported on. All teachers providing lessons for a class will collaborate to create one Monday-Friday timetable for students to follow indicating live whole groups and live small group learning sessions. This timetable will be sent to parents/students in advance of being implemented. This will allow parents time to plan for their children to attend remote learning lessons, with some regularity and will create student routines.

Please be prepared that setting up a virtual classroom may take some time and your child’s Learn at Home teacher will connect with parents within the first few days to provide details regarding the online classroom, including specific details around a daily schedule.

High Schools Grades 9-12

For both the Conventional and Learn at Home models, the school year will be divided in quarters or approximately 44 days each called a quadmester. At the end of each quadmester, students will write a final exam. Students will receive a report card after each quadmester once final marks have been determined. Quadmasters will stay in place regardless of the delivery model (conventional, adaptive, or remote). Students will complete 2 courses per quadmester working on 1 course in an AM session and 1 course in a PM session. Each session will be 150 mins. The school day will start at 8:40 am and end at 2:50 pm.

Alternative Education Programs

Students enrolled in the Gateway, College Now, College Jumpstart and Later Leavers programs will report to their home high schools. These programs will not be housed at Confederation College this year. Grade 11 students in these programs will report to school on September 8th and Grade 12 students in these programs will report to school on September 9th.

High School Grades 9-12 Learn At Home

Remote learning will be delivered via Google Classroom and Google Meet. Learn at Home will follow the quadmester model previously described. Students choosing the Learn at Home option may experience reduced course offerings.

Change to Learning Model

The board has a plan should it be necessary to switch from the conventional school delivery model to the adaptive or remote model depending on the current status of COVID-19 in our region. To facilitate this transition, staff will determine the 'at-home' technology needs for students in their class at the start of the school year. To prepare for continuity of learning, all staff will be trained on available district level tools that may be used for distance learning. Google Classroom and Google Meet and the Brightspace/D2L Learning Platform will be used for distance learning. These tools will be used as part of the regular 'in-class' classroom program from the start of the year, and parents will be invited to access Google Classroom where possible. By putting these steps in place, a potential shift to remote learning will be more efficient and responsive to student and family needs. Quadmestering will continue in High schools regardless of the model.

SCHOOL DAY OPERATIONS

Staggered Start

On Tuesday, August 18th we received a memo from the Ministry of Education indicating that school boards are permitted to adopt a staggered reopening over the first two weeks of school where this approach would enhance the health and safety of preparedness. After careful consideration we are opting for a staggered entry for students which will occur from September 8th to September 11th.

With obligations to ensure that schools are safe to reopen we need to allow staff the time to train on matters such as PPE, outbreak management and tracing protocols. Teachers will need time to assess returning students in terms of both mental health and academics. There's a whole system that has to shift and change in a few weeks but we need to do it properly, and that requires a little more time.



This year's first day of school will look a little different for families. To ensure a smoother and safe transition back to school students will come to school on different days as noted below.

Early Learning Kindergarten Program

- On September 3rd and 4th, teachers and early childhood educators will meet with Year One students and one parent. Parents will be contacted with their meeting date and time and safety protocols will be in place for the meeting.
- Year 2 Kindergarten students will start attending daily on September 9th.
- Year 1 students will stagger their entry from September 9th to September 11th.
- Students in the Kindergarten Transition Program will begin on September 9th.

Grades 1-6

- Grade 4, 5 and 6 students will attend on September 8th and not on September 9th.
- Grade 1, 2 and 3 students will attend on September 9th and not on September 8th.

Grades 7-8

- Grade 8 students will attend on September 8th and not on September 9th.
- Grade 7 students will attend on September 9th and not on September 8th.
- Students in the Life Skills, Transitions and Pathways Programs will begin on September 8th.

Grade 9-12

- Grade 9 and 11 students will attend on September 8th and not on September 9th.
- Grade 10 and 12 students will attend on September 9th and not on September 8th.
- All students will start attending daily on September 10th. Students will report directly to their AM session class.
- Students in the Life Skills Program will begin on September 8th.
- Students in the Transition Program will begin on their grade appropriate day.

Professional Development Days

All staff will engage in three mandatory professional development from August 31st to September 2nd that will focus on school re-entry and will address the following topics:

- Health and safety protocols in response to COVID-19 (full day)
- Student mental health, well-being and anti-bullying
- Remote and online learning strategies and tools
- An introduction to anti-racism and anti-discrimination training that will continue throughout the 2020-21 school year
- An introduction to the new elementary math curriculum and fundamental math concepts/skills



Early Learning Kindergarten Program

Year 2 Kindergarten students will begin school on September 9th. Year 1 Kindergarten students will enter school on a staggered schedule from September 8th to September 11th. Parents/guardians will be contacted by the school with their child's start date. Only one parent will be permitted to bring their Year 1 student to school on the day of the educator/parent meeting on either September 3rd or 4th. The parent must complete the self-screen and wear a mask. To the greatest extent possible and weather permitting, we suggest these meetings are held outdoors (ie: under the gazebo, outdoor classroom). Siblings are not permitted to attend the meeting.

Prior to School Startup

All students will be contacted by phone or via email with their Gmail account (firstname.lastname@tbcschools.ca) prior to their start date with specific information regarding their classroom teacher's name and room number.

Elementary School Entry and Exit Details

As elementary students arrive at school and enter/exit the school before/after recess, each elementary class will be assigned a specific door that they must use that will be identified on the first day of school.

Pick-up and Drop-off /Kiss and Ride

Pick-up and drop-off procedures have been established at each school depending on the number of students and size of the school. At entry and dismissal times, parents are to remain outside the school and adhere to physical distancing protocols. Parents are asked to avoid the use of school parking lots.

Attendance

Student attendance will be taken for all students who arrive at school, and a record will be maintained when students are in areas of the building other than their classroom. This will assist Thunder Bay District Health Unit with contact tracing should a positive case of COVID-19 be determined. Daily attendance will also be taken for any student participating in remote learning.

Contactless Payments

To reduce the handling of cash, parents are encouraged to use [SchoolCash online](#).

Technology

In the event that students are in a remote learning model at any point throughout the year and do not have access to a device at home, we would continue our loan program for school Chromebooks to support their learning. As part of our commitment to equity, the Board will continue to prioritize assisting families who need assistance with Internet connectivity. Technology support throughout the year is available for parents via our [Help Desk website](#).

Device Drop-off and Pick-up

If your child(ren) was issued a Board device during the school closure period from March to June, and is opting to Learn at Home starting in September, please keep the device.

If your child(ren) was issued a Board device during the school closure period from March to June, and is opting to return to school in the Conventional model, you must return the device to the school. Specific instructions will follow in the school letter.

If your child(ren) is returning in the Conventional model and the device is not returned, you will be invoiced.

Washrooms

Signage will be placed inside the restroom, reminding students of both physical distancing and proper hand hygiene. Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected in the morning and at the end of the school day. Custodians will check washrooms frequently throughout the day to determine if additional cleaning is required. Washrooms will be assigned by classroom and location. Maximum occupancy will be determined based on size of washroom facility. Signage will be posted and stalls will be locked out in order to promote physical distancing. Floor signage will be available outside of washroom areas to help promote a safe waiting area.

Personal Student Belongings

Students will not have access to lockers or cubbies during COVID-19; all belongings will stay with them in the classroom. Students will be asked to bring a minimal amount of personal belongings to school. Student belongings should be taken home each day to be cleaned as needed. Parents and guardians are encouraged to label all student belongings.

Indoor/Outdoor Shoes

Students are encouraged to wear one pair of running shoes that are safe in all settings (ie: in the classroom, on the playground, in the gym). If students do bring an indoor/outdoor pair of shoes, they will keep one pair in a safe and easily accessible location.

Elementary School Clubs and Sports

Schools can offer clubs and sports if physical distancing is possible and if equipment and spaces are cleaned and disinfected between each use. School clubs that can maintain physical distancing or run virtually may continue. Clubs and sports where physical distancing or virtual meetings are not possible will not be permitted at this time.

School Gym Uniforms

To begin the school year, change rooms will not be accessible therefore changing into phys ed uniforms will not be possible.



High School Clubs and Sports

Schools can offer clubs and sports if physical distancing is possible and if equipment and spaces are cleaned and disinfected between each use. School clubs that can maintain physical distancing or run virtually may continue. Clubs and sports where physical distancing or virtual meetings are not possible will not be permitted at this time. Further information regarding SSSAA sports will follow.

Nutrition Breaks / Lunch

We encourage elementary students to stay at school and eat lunch within their classrooms, with their cohort. With signed parental permission, students are able to leave at lunch, and encouraged to physically distance from others. Lunches should be sent to school with students and parents should not be dropping off lunches throughout the day.

Breakfast Programs, Hot Lunches and High School Cafeterias

Breakfast programs will be available to students as a “grab and go” model. Information regarding the purchasing of hot lunches will be sent to parents from each school. High Schools cafeterias will be closed until further notice.

School Photos

Individual student photos will be taken. A composite class photo will be available for K-8 classes.. Students opting to Learn at Home are asked to book an appointment at the studio.

Transportation

In order to support the return to school 5 days a week, normal busing will resume with enhanced protocols for Health & Safety.

- Students in Grades 4-12 will be required to wear masks.
- Students in Grades K-3 are encouraged to wear masks.
- Added disinfecting of buses (Twice Daily)
- PPE to be provided drivers
- There will be mandatory seating plans on ALL school buses. Students who live in the same household will be expected to sit together, while single riders may be grouped with classmates to the extent possible while still using school buses to their capacity.

Seating plans will be maintained by your School Administrators, and bus drivers will be responsible for ensuring students sit in their assigned seat. Students MUST stay in their assigned seat during every ride in order to maintain cohort bubbles. Assigned seating aims to reduce virus transmission and will help facilitate contact tracing for public health.

If the numbers of students on a bus allows, the seat immediately behind the Driver will be left empty.



If your child(ren) is eligible for busing and will not be taking the bus this year, please contact [Student Transportation Services](#) to Opt-Out of transportation. Students can be re-registered for busing at any time through the year.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Physical Distancing

Physical Distancing Signage on walls and floors will help students maintain physical distance from one another, where possible. The signage will be posted at various locations throughout the school or board facility. Where possible, physical distancing measures will be used. These can include:

- Maximizing physical distance between chairs and tables/desks in all rooms
- Incorporating more individual activities.
- Avoiding activities involving shared objects/toys.
- Creating designated routes for students/staff to get to and from classrooms.
- Using markings on floors and walls to promote physical distancing, including for lines/queues (e.g., tape on floors, signs on walls).
- Moving activities outside to allow for more space.
- Staggering periods of student movement around school and discouraging students from congregating in hallways where possible.
- Staggering student/staff lunch/break times, recess times where applicable.

We recognize maintaining physical distancing at all times will be challenging, especially in our ELKP classroom. Adults and students will sometimes forget this important safety measure or will unintentionally enter someone else's space. It is important to recognize that we are aiming for the best efforts and not perfection. A friendly reminder will be provided when someone is failing to keep the required distance apart or when friends are seen in physical proximity to one another.

Non-Medical or Cloth Masks

As per the Ministry's Guide to Reopening Schools, students in Grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors in school, including in hallways and during classes, unless unable to do so for medical reasons or due to special needs. Outdoor times like recess may be used as opportunities to provide students with breaks from wearing masks. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged but not required to wear masks in indoor spaces. Students are encouraged to practice wearing masks and learn what type of mask is most comfortable for them. Students may wear their own non-medical masks, and families who cannot provide a mask for their child may request support from the school principal, and where available, a mask will be provided. Students receiving a mask will be taught the proper use of a mask. Any logo or design on a mask will be subject to normal school dress code policies.

The requirement for mask use also pertains to bussing. Students in grades 4-12 must wear a non-medical mask while riding the bus. Students in Kindergarten to grade 3 should wear a non-medical mask.



We recommend that parents/guardians send a labelled bag or container for the storage of masks when they are not being worn (ie: during lunch, outdoor time).

If your child is unable to wear a mask for medical or special education needs, please contact the principal prior to the first day your child is entering school.

Ventilation

Where possible, windows and doors will be opened to allow fresh outdoor air into the School. The Board has a fully automated air quality control system through Honeywell Solutions Systems for all facilities. DVC (demand ventilation controlled) - controlled by Co2 levels. We have full control of ventilation and air circulation in all schools. All portables have their own air exchange system.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Schools will ensure that hand hygiene products are available in all rooms where possible and at school entrances (e.g. hand wash sink with soap dispenser or hand sanitizer). All staff, students and essential visitors will be expected to conduct proper hand hygiene, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer, at the following times:

- Upon entering the school.
- At regular time intervals throughout the day.
- Before/after eating food.
- After using the restroom.
- Before/after outdoor play.
- After sneezing or coughing.
- Before putting on and after removing PPE and/or non-medical masks/face coverings.

The following resources are available from Public Health:

- [In Good Hands](#)
- [How to wash your Hands](#)
- [Handwashing Ojibway](#)
- [Handwashing Ojicree](#)
- [Handwashing French](#)
- [Handwashing - Covering Coughs and Sneezes](#)
- [Reduce the spread of COVID-19: Wash your hands](#)
- [How to clean your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub](#)



ACCESS TO SCHOOL SITES

Parent and Visitor Access to Schools

Schools will significantly limit or even prohibit visitors, including parents. Any visitors to the school will be required to self-screen and to wear a mask while on school premises. Essential visitors are permitted inside the school (e.g., maintenance personnel). All visitors will complete a self-assessment screen for COVID-19 symptoms BEFORE arriving/entering school. If any signs or symptoms are exhibited, visitors must not enter the school. All other parents and visitors will not be permitted inside schools during the pandemic, except in case of emergency. At entry and dismissal times, parents are to remain outside the school and adhere to physical distancing protocols.

Before and After Care

All of our Child Care Centres and Before/After School Programs (BASPs) are operated by third party Operators. Students attending a BASP would be included as part of two separate cohorts (BASP and classroom). Student attendance lists and information will be maintained and available to public health for contact tracing purposes in accordance with all applicable legislation, including the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please submit any inquiries about child care or BASP registration directly to the Operator. The board website includes additional information and contacts: [Child Care](#)

PARENT AND GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

Screening of Students

Parents/guardians will be asked to perform a daily screening of their child(ren) for COVID-19 symptoms BEFORE leaving for school. Monitor your child for COVID-19 symptoms (see below).

Common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever (temperature of 37.8°C or greater)
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath (dyspnea)

Other symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- New olfactory or taste disorder(s)
- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Runny nose, or nasal congestion – in absence of underlying reason for these symptoms such as seasonal allergies, post nasal drip, etc.



For additional information on symptoms, please see the reference document linked below.

Resource:

- [COVID-19 Reference document for symptoms](#)
- Complete a health screening questionnaire (see questions below) for your child(ren) at home everyday BEFORE coming into the school
- If your child/ children fail the self-screen or have symptoms, call your local assessment centre to determine if a test is needed.

Screening Questions

Q1: Do you have any of the following symptoms that are new and not related to seasonal allergies or pre-existing medical conditions?

- Fever
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- Loss of taste and/or smell
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Runny nose
- Nasal congestion
- Headaches
- Muscle aches
- Extreme tiredness or fatigue

Q2: Have you been in close contact* with someone who is confirmed to currently have COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

**A close contact is someone who has spent some time (typically more than 15 minutes) within 2 metres of a confirmed case. Passing someone in a hall or yard or simply being in the same school does not make someone a close contact.*

Q3: Have you travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days?

For a list of assessment centres and contact information visit

www.tbdhu.com/testinginfo For any other COVID-19 related questions, please call

the TBDHU COVID information line at (807) 625-5900 or toll free at

1-888-294-6630

How can parents/guardians help prior to school starting?

- Encourage frequent hand washing (see Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette above) with soap and water at home and when at school.
- Talk to your children about the importance of maintaining a 2-metre distance from others, not sharing food, cell phones or personal items, and covering coughs/sneezes.
- Educate your child(ren) on proper mask-wearing habits (ie avoid touching masks, ensure masks cover nose, mouth and chin). Normalize mask-wearing, if tolerated, in public places.

OUTBREAK PROTOCOL

We are currently waiting for an Outbreak Protocol from the Ministry of Education and Public Health Ontario that will provide current best-practice/evidence-based guidelines for COVID-19 outbreak control and management in a school setting.

Isolation Room/Area

Each school will designate an isolation room/area. This room/area will be used for the temporary placement of any individual who becomes ill during the day. A kit will be available for use by the ill individual and staff member attending to them. This will include hand sanitizer, gloves, surgical/procedural masks, eye protection, gown and tissues.

Privacy

Staff will follow the directions from Thunder Bay District Health Unit in terms of what medical/health information related to colleagues, students or their families can be shared. Parents will have to understand that not all personal information can be shared due to privacy concerns.

COVID-19 Symptomatic Students

Parents will be notified immediately if a child becomes unwell during the day. Symptomatic students must be immediately separated from others and supervised in a designated room/space. Parents (or designate) must immediately come to the school to pick up their child. Students from the same family may need to be picked up as well if exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. Symptomatic students will be supervised by a staff member who will follow safety protocols. Soiled personal items will be placed in a securely tied plastic bag and sent home with the student's parent/guardian. Soiled items will not be rinsed and/or washed at school.

Custodial staff will clean and disinfect the designated room/space and any items touched by the symptomatic individual.



Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

If a student has been diagnosed as positive for the COVID-19 virus, the school and board will follow the directions of Public Health. This may require one or multiple classes to move to a distance learning model or may require the school to be closed to in-person instruction for a length of time necessary, based on the time recommended by TBDHU. Students who test positive for COVID-19 must bring medical clearance before being allowed to return to in-person instruction. Staff will clean and disinfect the designated room/space and any items touched by the individual.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Remember to put your health and your family first and continue to follow all government advice in order to stay safe. God bless our Catholic educational community as we continue on this journey. We're all in this together!

